

PG Society Committee Meeting

Date: 3.4.15

Time: 13:30

Location: Committee room (Union)

Present: David van Brussel (PG Society President), Alison Holiday (Secretary), Horizonz Zhang (Events Convenor), Mattias Eken (Treasurer), Brianna Vandrey, Aline Heyerick (President-elect), Scott Schorr (Ball Convenor), Ondrej Hajda (DoRep), Fay Morrice (DoSDA).

Absent: Porsiana Beatrice (Publicity Officer)

1. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Last meeting's minutes were approved.

2. President report

David has nothing additional to the agenda to report.

3. Convenor report

Tania is taking a leave from the position of Postgraduate Convenor until August to focus on her studies. Ondrej will be taking over her responsibilities.

4. Treasurer report

This week Mattias took care of some invoices from the last ball. The accounts for March will soon be out so the committee will have a better idea of finances.

5. Bus trip

David has booked the bus and the ticket link is open but Facebook event hasn't been made yet. The cost of the bus was £500 for 70 seats. Tickets cost £3.50, including the booking fee. The date of the trip is 25th April, Mattias and Horizonz have volunteered to run it.

6. Alumni weekend

The wine for the tasting event has been ordered. We can accommodate 30 people, which we can open up to current students as well as alumni. The committee agreed to initially post 20 tickets online for alumni and keep 10 for current postgraduates and change the ratio depending on sales. Sandy's bar has been booked for the event.

7. Bonfires

We currently have two bonfires planned, one on the 21st June and one for May dip. The 21st June is a Sunday so the committee agreed to move it to the 20th to make it easier for people to attend. The second bonfire would involve committee members dedicating time to stay up late on a weeknight, which would be difficult. However, Ondrej is looking for volunteers to help clean the beach after May dip.

8. Movie nights over the summer

David stated that the movie nights have been pretty successful so suggested that we book nights during the summer to continue them.

9. Summer ball

Scott made a handout of estimated costs. There is no cost for the union bar. From a financial point of view Mattias suggested we could risk a higher cost ball but we would have to be sure we made money. Last meeting it was suggested that we could look for sponsors but Fay recommended that it would be too late for this year. In previous years the ball has always sold out but we are looking at bigger capacity venues than normal.

Choosing Younger Hall would allow us to have more money for decorations, charge less and potentially charge less for tickets compared to the Fairmont and Kinkell Byre. Further, if we went with a "Great Gatsby" theme Aline suggested decorating would be simple e.g. draping, providing the venue allows it.

The committee provisionally agreed to Younger Hall as the venue for the summer ball depending on decoration arrangements and if we can have the union bar.

10. Any other competent business

Ondrej wanted to talk to the committee about postgraduate engagement. A postgraduate representative is going to be elected to sit on the Board of the Students' Association. The person would be interviewed and become a trustee of the Students' Association. Meetings will have a special item on the agenda dealing with postgraduate engagement and the committee will be involved with bringing up any issues that need to be discussed.

Ondrej is also interested in suggestions for how postgraduate engagement with the union can be increased:

- Aline highlighted that within the postgraduate community the Union has a reputation problem of being a place where undergraduates go so they avoid them.
- Fay suggested that a dedicated masters student event would be a good idea as they are more likely to engage. Though David stated that most Freshers' Week events attract more Masters students due to the later start date of PhD students.
- Some subject-based societies have subsets for postgraduates in place to encourage them to join. This may be a good way to increase involvement.

Fay and Ondrej are also going to draft a survey to send out to postgraduates about engagement, which they will run by the committee.

Ondrej is running a voting registration campaign and asked if the committee had any suggestions for reaching postgraduates other than Dean's Court. The society suggested the Library, Physics café and Medical building.

The budget for next year has to be submitted at the beginning of July so the committee should start thinking about it.

Date of next meeting: 10.4.15